British Waterways

For further information on the Lancaster Canal and the Millennium Ribble Link, please contact us at:

Lancaster Waterway office, Main Road, Galgate, Lancaster LA2 0LQ
Tel: 01524 751888 Fax: 01524 751133

or visit our websites:

www.britishwaterways.co.uk
www.millenniumribblelink.co.uk

HOW TO BOOK PASSAGE ON BRITAIN'S NEWEST CANAL

As of the 10th June 2002, Booking Forms are available from:

Lancaster Waterway office, Main Road, Galgate, Lancaster LA2 0LQ
Tel: 01524 751888 Fax: 01524 751133

To recieve a booking form by email:

enquires.LANC@britishwaterways.co.uk

Application made in person at our office are welcome.

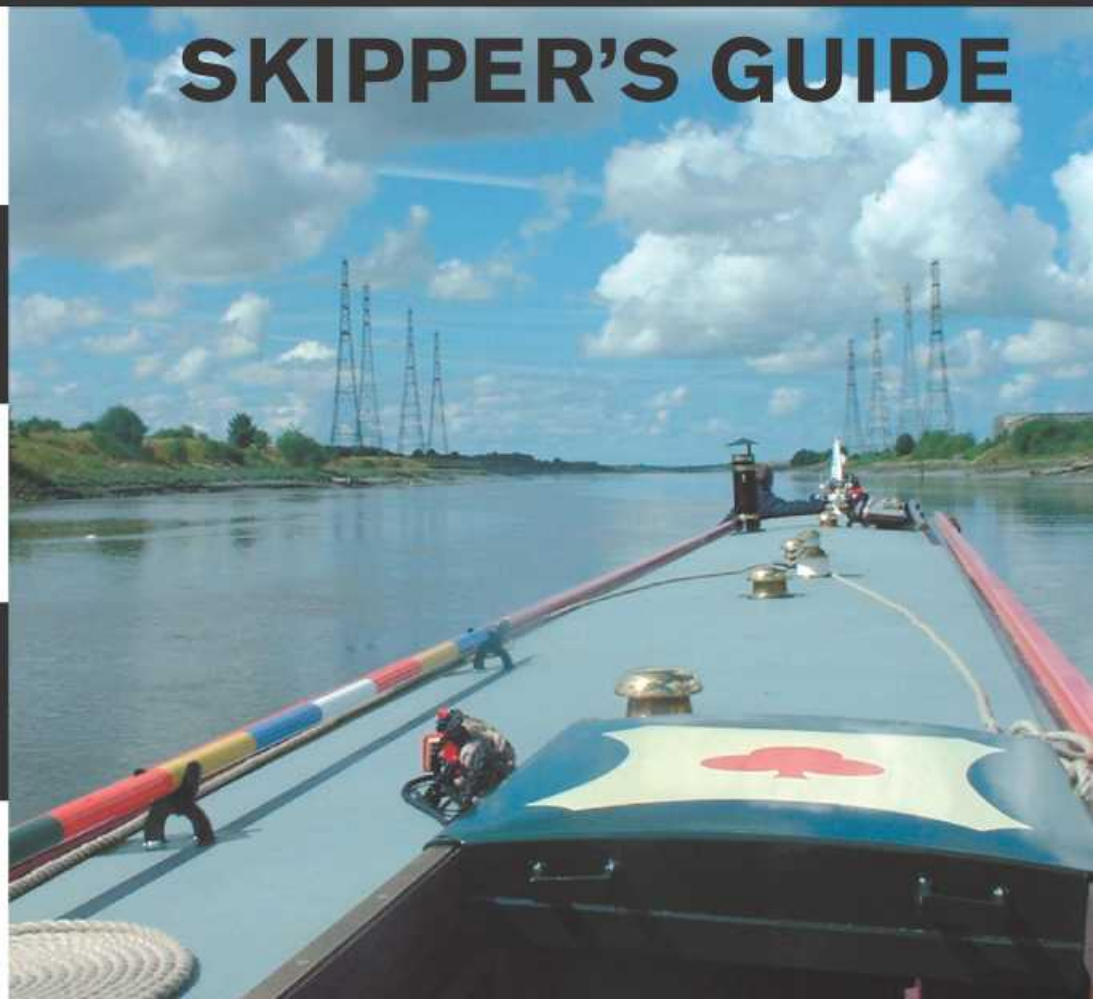
All applications should be received at least five working days before passage is required.

Please note:
We anticipate demand to be extremely high, and recommend booking passage two to three week in advance. For queries on availability, please telephone the Waterway Office.

British Waterways

MILLENNIUM RIBBLE LINK

SKIPPER'S GUIDE



WELCOME TO THE MILLENNIUM RIBBLE LINK

The prestigious £5.8m project to construct the Millennium Ribble Link opened in 2002. This is the first new navigation to be built in England since the Manchester Ship Canal in the 19th century.

The idea for connecting Kendal to the national network dates back over 200 years and was part of an ambitious scheme to build a canal – which is now the Lancaster Canal – starting at West Houghton in the south and continuing 75 miles north to Kendal. The canal was to consist of three long level sections connected by two flights of locks and including two large aqueducts, over the rivers Ribble and Lune. The line was surveyed in 1772 and work began circa 1792, but by 1799 the southern section was incomplete and, because of insufficient funds, the proposed Ribble aqueduct was shelved. By 1803, a temporary horse-drawn tramway had been built to connect the southern section to the new canal north of Preston. With the arrival of the railways, however, the temporary tramway became permanent and the aqueduct never built.

British Waterways is responsible for the ongoing operation of the Link, which is owned by The Waterways Trust. The project was constructed in partnership between Lancashire County Council, the Ribble Link Trust, The Waterways Trust, and British Waterways. For further information, please contact British Waterways, at the Lancaster Waterway Office in Galgate (01524) 751888.

LOCATION

2.1 The Millennium Ribble Link commences at the Lancaster Canal (Bridge 16 to 17), and travels down Savick Brook to Lock 9. The remainder of the Savick Brook passes into the River Ribble which then leads to either Preston Docks or into the River Douglas which connects into the Rufford Branch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal via Tarleton Lock.

2.2 A map is located on pages 4 & 5.

2.3 Whilst in the Link, customers will be required to comply with British Waterways – terms and conditions of passage and abide by our regulations and bye-laws. The remainder of the Savick Brook, the River Ribble and River Douglas are public rights of navigation.

OPERATION

3.1 Easter to end of October: Operation of the Link is dictated by the tide and weather, during daylight hours. Check current operating times in the BW user guide leaflet. Passages must be booked in advance.

3.2 November to Easter: By request. Operation of the Link is dictated by the tide and weather, during daylight hours. Passages must be booked in advance.

3.3 The link will be manned during operating hours. BW staff will operate the staircase flight locks and sea lock. All other locks to be operated by customers

3.4 The Link will only operate one way each day. You will be notified of the directions at the time of your booking. It is anticipated that the crossing between Lock 9 and Tarleton Lock will take 2.5 – 3 hours.

3.5 Passage through the Link is continuous. There is no facility to remain within the Link at any time. All locks will be locked for security after each passage is completed. In an emergency, boats may be required to moor at Lock 8. Skippers must note that there are no service facilities at this site.

3.6 The Link will be operational on as many days as possible during each year, but weather may restrict operation. It is expected that the Link will only operate between river tide levels of 8.0 – 9.2 metres, up to Beaufort wind scale 4/5 winds and when there is high visibility. Please note that winds from certain directions may have a greater effect than others and that water levels within the Link will also dictate operation. BW will make a decision as to whether the Link is operational on the day of travel. This decision will be final (see BW's terms and conditions).

3.7 BW reserves the right to close the Link at any time and without reason, particularly on the grounds of health and safety (see BW's terms and conditions).

3.8 A reminder of BW's guidance to safety and navigation will be given immediately prior to passage.

BOOKING

4.1 All passages must be booked in advance. Bookings will only be accepted on the completion of a booking form and full payment being made. Current cost of passage is available from the Lancaster Waterway Office. The booking form must be returned to BW's Lancaster Waterway Office (details under paragraph 4.4) a minimum of 5 working days in advance of intended passage. The booking form is available to be printed off from the BW web site **(www.millenniumribblelink.co.uk)** or can be emailed to you direct, requested from **enquiries.LANC@britishwaterways.co.uk.** Electronically submitted forms are not acceptable.

4.2 Bookings will only be granted to customers who hold a current British Waterways boat licence. This will be checked at the time of booking. Details are available on the web site **(www.britishwaterways.co.uk).**

4.3 If you cannot sail on the day booked due to weather restrictions, all steps will be taken to ensure you sail on the earliest operational tide.

4.4 All bookings must be made at the **Lancaster Waterway Office, Main Road, Galgate, LA2 OLQ. Tel: 01524 751888.**

SAFETY

5.1 The Savick Brook, River Ribble and River Douglas are tidal and deep in places. It is recommended that the following equipment be carried as a minimum and used where appropriate:

- An anchor, chain and rope (minimum 30 metres)
- VHF radio and/or mobile phone
- Lifejackets sufficient for all on board
- Fire fighting equipment
- Coastal flare pack

In order to assist the Emergency Services, an awareness of your vessel's position should be maintained at all times during the passage. An accurate position will ensure that the Emergency Services can get to you with minimum delay.

5.2 The boat may rock from side to side during the sail more than you are used to. This is because you are sailing in moving tidal water, unlike inland canals which are comparatively still. Please ensure that all loose items, both inside and outside the craft – particularly roofs, are secured. **If any items fall from your boat, do not attempt to retrieve them.**

5.3 If you need advice whilst navigating in any tidal river, contact Preston Riversway Control Centre on either VHF channel 16 or telephone **01772 726871**. Advise the controller of your situation and they will assist accordingly. **If your situation is in any way life-threatening then immediately call 999 asking for the coastguard.**

5.4 As you will be sailing in tidal waters for some of your journey, ensure that the engine of your boat is capable of travelling comfortably at a minimum of 5 knots (approx. 6 miles per hour) in still waters.

5.5 If you have little experience in sailing in tidal waters, we recommend that you sail with a partner craft. If you need assistance in arranging this, please notify us at the time of booking. A private pilot service is also available (see paragraph 8).

5.6 As skipper of your craft, you are ultimately responsible for the safety of yourself, your crew and your craft. Please ensure that you have read all safety and operational guidance before you enter the Link.

5.7 Check that your insurance covers sailing on tidal waters and rivers. Contact your broker directly for further information.

5.8 In the event of your vessel going aground, contact the Coastguard immediately. Follow their instructions and stay with your vessel unless otherwise advised.

SAILING FROM LANCASTER CANAL

6.1 On arrival at the junction of the Link and Lancaster Canal, moor up in the basin and await departure instructions from British Waterways, staff. **Do not proceed through the Link until directed to do so. Skippers must follow all BW staff instructions during passage through the Link (see BW's terms and conditions).**

6.2 Stop at Lock 8. At the correct operational tide, BW staff will operate Lock 9 and you will be able to proceed through into the remainder of Savick Brook. Travel to the end of the Brook and turn right into the River Ribble for the Leeds & Liverpool Canal or left into the River Ribble for Preston Docks.

6.3 If you turn left and wish to proceed into Preston Docks, a separate guidance note written by Preston Borough Council is available. For further details contact the Riversway Control Centre on **01772 726871.**

6.4 If you turn right, sail along the River Ribble for approx 3.5 miles. As you travel along, make note of the various perches which mark the distance travelled every mile. **Ensure that you sail on the right hand side at all times and keep a sharp lookout for other craft using the river.**

6.5 When you reach 5 mile perch (see map on Pages 4 & 5), sail to the right and behind the perch and then turn left into the River Douglas. Be aware of the strong tidal flows near this perch. **Do not sail in front of this perch as there is shallow water over marshland that hides submerged walls.**

6.6 Sail approx. 4 miles up the River Douglas to Tarleton Lock. Notify the lock keeper of your approach by telephoning **01772 812250.** Enter the lock as directed by the Lock Keeper.

6.7 You will have then entered the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Further details on this canal are available from White Bear Marina on **01257 481054.**

SAILING FROM LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

7.1 Proceed out of Tarleton Lock, as directed by the Lock Keeper. Sail down the River Douglas for approx. 4 miles to the junction with the River Ribble.

7.2 As you approach the junction you will notice the 5-mile perch (Asland Lamp, see photo on map). Sail to the left and behind the perch, turning right into the River Ribble. Be aware of the strong tidal flows near this perch. **Do not sail in front or to the right of this perch as there is shallow water over marshland that hides submerged walls.**

7.3 Sail along the River Ribble for approx 3.5 miles. As you travel along, make note of the various perches which mark the distance travelled every half mile. **Ensure you sail on the right hand side at all times and keep a sharp lookout for other craft using the river.**

7.4 A notice on your left will identify Savick Brook and the entrance to the Link. Turn left, making an allowance for the tidal flow, and sail towards Lock 9.

7.5 At Lock 9, British Waterways, staff will direct you through the lock into the Link. **Do not proceed through the Link until directed to do so. Skippers must follow all BW staff instructions during passage through the Link (see BW's terms and conditions).** After you have passed through Lock 9, await further instructions from British Waterways, staff. Further up the Link – BW staff will assist you through the staircase flight of locks and into the Lancaster Canal.

7.6 The nearest BW sanitary station is at Cadley (Preston). Turn right out of the basin, and travel approx. 1 mile along Lancaster Canal. If you require further information on facilities and services, please contact the Galgate Office.

Pilot Service

8.1 British Waterways does not offer a pilot service. If you require this service, please contact either Freckleton Boatyard on **01772 632439**, Douglas Boatyard on **01772 812462** or J Mayor & Co. on **01772 812250.** There will be an additional private charge for this service.

A584

To the Lancaster Canal

Preston New Road

Sea Lock

Disused Jetty

Savick Brook

Preston Dock

1 Mile Perch

HIGHER PENWORTHAM

River Ribble

Sewage Works

2 Mile Perch

3 Mile Perch

Freckleton Creek

Warton Aerodrome

4 Mile Perch

Hutton Marsh

Longton Marsh

ASLAND LAMP

Hesketh Out Marsh

LONGTON

River Douglas

Hesketh New Marsh

HESKETH BANK

Shepards Boatyard

MUCH HOOLE

Tarleton Lock

BRETHERTON

TARLETON

To the Leeds & Liverpool Canal

N

Scale - 1:50,000

KEY	
	Asland Lamp – *5 Mile Perch*
	Ribble Link Route – *Line of navigation*
	Tidal Flooded Area – *Non-navigable*
	Training Wall – *Submerged*
	Flood Embankment
	Mile Perch Markers
	Half Mile Perch Markers
	Post Markers

NAVIGATING THE MILLENNIUM RIBBLE LINK

The limited opening times of the Millennium Ribble Link are dictated by the tidal nature of the Ribble Estuary. The Link itself incorporates a stairflight lock, 5 individual locks and a sea lock, all of which are manned for safety reasons.

The Millennium Ribble Link will provide an exciting challenge for all keen boaters, and we recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment.

It is worth noting that due to the unique design of the Lancaster Canal, narrowboats intending to navigate this section should bring boarding planks to allow bank access.

***Please note**
Travelling time will need to include passage through the Ribble Link, the Ribble Estuary and the River Douglas. Therefore it is important that you take this additional time into account.

*TIDE TIMES

AUGUST TIDE

Day	Date	Time	Metres	Feet
Tuesday	20	10.34	8.2	26.9
Wednesday	21	11.24	8.5	27.9
Thursday	22	12.06	8.7	28.5
Friday	23	12.41	8.9	29.2
Saturday	24	1.12	8.9	29.2
Sunday	25	1.41	8.9	29.2
Monday	26	2.11	8.9	29.2
Tuesday	27	2.41	8.8	28.9
Wednesday	28	3.11	8.5	27.9
Thursday	29	3.44	8.2	26.9
Friday	30		Unnavigable	
Saturday	31		Unnavigable	

SEPTEMBER TIDE

Day	Date	Time	Metres	Feet
Sunday	1		Unnavigable	
Monday	2		Unnavigable	
Tuesday	3		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	4		Unnavigable	
Thursday	5	10.46	8.6	28.2
Friday	6	11.34	9.2	30.2
Saturday	7	12.17	9.6	31.5
Sunday	8		Unnavigable	
Monday	9		Unnavigable	
Tuesday	10		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	11	3.07	9.5	31.2
Thursday	12	3.51	9.0	29.5
Friday	13	4.41	8.4	27.6
Saturday	14		Unnavigable	
Sunday	15		Unnavigable	
Monday	16		Unnavigable	
Tuesday	17		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	18	10.23	8.2	26.9
Thursday	19	11.07	8.6	28.2
Friday	20	11.43	8.9	29.2
Saturday	21	12.16	9.0	29.5
Sunday	22	12.45	9.2	30.2
Monday	23	1.13	9.2	30.2
Tuesday	24	1.41	9.2	30.2
Wednesday	25	2.10	9.0	29.5

SEPTEMBER TIDE (continued)

Day	Date	Time	Metres	Feet
Thursday	26	2.39	8.7	28.5
Friday	27	3.09	8.4	27.6
Saturday	28	3.44	8.0	26.2
Sunday	29		Unnavigable	
Monday	30		Unnavigable	

OCTOBER TIDE

Day	Date	Time	Metres	Feet
Tuesday	1		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	2		Unnavigable	
Thursday	3	9.27	8.0	26.2
Friday	4	10.22	8.8	28.9
Saturday	5	11.10	9.4	30.8
Sunday	6		Unnavigable	
Monday	7		Unnavigable	
Tuesday	8		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	9		Unnavigable	
Thursday	10	2.42	9.6	31.5
Friday	11	3.26	9.0	29.5
Saturday	12	4.15	8.4	27.6
Sunday	13		Unnavigable	
Monday	14		Unnavigable	
Tuesday	15		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	16		Unnavigable	
Thursday	17		Unnavigable	
Friday	18	10.39	8.5	27.9
Saturday	19	11.14	8.9	29.2
Sunday	20	11.45	9.1	29.9
Monday	21	12.14	9.2	30.2
Tuesday	22	12.44	9.3	30.5
Wednesday	23	1.13	9.2	30.2
Thursday	24	1.43	9.1	29.9
Friday	25	2.12	8.8	28.9
Saturday	26	2.43	8.5	27.9
Sunday	27	3.21	8.2	26.9
Monday	28		Unnavigable	
Tuesday	29		Unnavigable	
Wednesday	30		Unnavigable	
Thursday	31		Unnavigable	

WELCOME TO LANCASTER CANAL

The opening of the Millennium Ribble Link has finally connected the Lancaster Canal to the Inland Waterway network, and we welcome boaters who are keen to explore our beautiful stretch of water.

41 miles of lock-free sailing is now available, winding through rural countryside, and allowing access to historic structures such as the Lune Aqueduct and Glasson Dock.

A Lancaster Canal leaflet is also available, as are information sheets on local services and facilities.

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MILLENNIUM RIBBLE LINK

USER GUIDE